

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Norbert Hoffmann GROUP NO.: 2192
APPLICATION NO.: 10/037,938 EXAMINER: Nguyen Ba, Hoang Vu A
FILING DATE: January 3, 2002 CONFIRMATION NO. 7602
TITLE: APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT METHOD

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby make of record the patents and publications listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449, and other information contained herein, for consideration by the Examiner in connection with the examination of the above-identified patent application. In accordance with § 37 C.F.R. 1.98, only copies of the foreign patent documents and non-patent publications are enclosed.

Submission of any document(s), publication(s) or reference(s) herewith does not imply concession by Applicant(s) to any characterization of the document(s), publication(s) or reference(s) (including any statements therein), and no such concession is made.

REMARKS

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R., this statement is being filed (check one)

- (1) within three (3) months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(d), or within three (3) months of the date of entry-of-the-national-stage as set-forth-in 37 C.F.R. 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing of the first Office action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. 1.114; or
- (2) after the period defined in (1) but before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.311, and
- the requisite Statement is below, OR

- the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), namely \$180.00, is included herein, or
- (3) after the mailing date of a final action or notice of allowance but on or before the payment of the issue fee, AND
- the requisite Statement is below, AND
- the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p), namely \$180.00, is included herein.

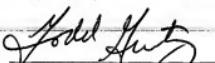
It is respectfully requested that each of the patents and publications listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, and other information contained herein, be made of record in this application.

STATEMENT

As required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(e), Applicant(s), through the undersigned, hereby state either that [check the appropriate space only if either (2) or (3) is checked on the previous page and the Statement is required]:

1. Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application **not more than three months** prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement; or
2. No item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing this Statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to **any individual** designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) **more than three months** prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,



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